

tion" by Mr. Grinnell. A couple of pages descriptive of the limits and physical characteristics of the region, with a list of the trees, is followed by an annotated list of 43 species of birds and a 'summary' of the principal points relating to their distribution. The list shows a mixture, at least in winter, of humid coast forms and arid Sierran forms, the Siskiyou Mountains being "evidently on the narrow line of murgence between the humid coast fauna and the arid Sierran fauna."—J. A. A.

Sharpe's 'Hand List of the Genera and Species of Birds.'—Volume IV. — Volume IV¹ continues the list of the Passeriformes, and includes the families Timeliidæ (with six subfamilies), Troglodytidæ, Cinclidæ, Mimidæ, Turdidæ (with nine subfamilies), Sylviidæ, Vireonidæ, Ampelidæ, Artamidæ, Vangidæ, Prionopidæ, Aerocharidæ (with a single species), Laniidæ, Paridæ, Chamæidæ, Regulidæ, Sittidæ, and Certhiidæ. A fifth volume has been found necessary to complete the work, and its publication is promised in the course of a few months.

The present volume is fully up to the high standard of its predecessors, being in every sense fully up-to-date. As in previous volumes, the proof-sheets have been revised by a considerable number of the leading ornithologists of Europe and America, and the author makes numerous acknowledgments of indebtedness for suggestions thus received.

As regards American birds, it may be noted that *Anorthura* is retained for the Winter Wrens, since "the only bird in Rennie's mind [when he proposed the genus] was certainly the European Wren." "The arrangement of the Turdinæ, as here set forth, is founded on the scheme proposed by Dr. Stejneger in 1883, with certain changes and modifications. . . . The arrangement of the true Turdidæ into Thrushes (*Turdus*) and Blackbirds (*Merula*) breaks down on close examination; but a more prolonged study is necessary before an arrangement, satisfactory to all ornithologists, can be arrived at. . . . The distinctive characters between the genera *Turdus* and *Merula* are very slight, and the difference in colour of the sexes in the latter genus is of no account. The proportion of the primary-quills emphasized by Dr. Stejneger is also an unstable character," etc. Just what is the basis of Dr. Sharpe's present arrangement is not quite clear, nor are the reasons for some of the new associations and dissociations at all evident. Between *Turdus* and *Merula* are interposed nearly a dozen other

¹ A Hand-List | of the | Genera and Species | of Birds. | [Nomenclator Avium tum Fossilium | tum Viventium.] | By | R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., | Assistant Keeper, Department of Zoology, | British Museum. | Volume IV. | London: | Printed by Order of the Trustees. | Sold by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, E. C.; | B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly, W.; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; | Kegan Paul & Co., 43 Gerrard St., W.; | and at the | British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. | 1903. | All rights reserved.—8vo. pp. i-xii, 1-391.

genera, while some of the species of these two groups are most certainly much more nearly related to each other than they are to any of the interposed groups. Our Robin group is allotted to *Turdus*, and forms the only American species of the genus, except *T. rufiglorques* of Mexico and Central America.

It seems like returning to the 'good old times' to see such groups as the Mimidæ, Regulidæ, Paridæ, Certhiidæ, etc., installed again as full-fledged families.

Parus is restricted to a group of Old World Titmice, the American species hitherto referred to *Parus* being placed in *Picile* Kaup, except *P. gambeli*, for which the new genus *Pecilodes* Bianchi (1902) is adopted.

The recent additions to the list of described forms are given at their face value, with, however, references to adverse opinions when any such have been made public. In short, the care, thoroughness and fairness of Dr. Sharpe's great work will long render it a most invaluable aid to every systematic ornithologist.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on New American Birds.—Mr. Ridgway, in preparing Part III of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' has found it desirable to describe a number of new genera, species, and subspecies.¹ The new genera comprise the following four genera of Swallows, as follows: *Alopchelidon*, type, *Hirundo fucata* Temm.; *Orochelidon*, type, *Petrochelidon murina* Cass.; *Diplochelidon*, type, *Hirundo melanoleuca* Wied; *Lamprochelidon*, type, *Hirundo euchrysea* Gosse. The new species and subspecies, 29 in number, are mostly from Mexico and Central America, but the following come within the scope of the A. O. U. Check-List: (1) *Budytes flavus alascensis*, Western Alaska; (2) *Vireo huttoni cognatus*, Cape district of Lower California; (3) *Vireo bellii arizonæ*, western Texas and Arizona; (4) *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi*, San Clemente and Santa Margarita Islands, L. Cal.; (5) *Bæolophus inornatus restrictus*, vicinity of San Francisco Bay, Cal.; (6) *B. i. murinus*, northern Lower California; (7) *Psaltriparus minimus saturatus*, Mount Vernon, Wash.; (8) *Chamaea fasciata rufula*, central coast region of California; (9) Mississippi Valley and Great Plains region, north to Alberta.—J. A. A.

Nelson on New Birds from Mexico.—The 13 new species and subspecies here described² were mainly collected by Messrs. Nelson and Goldman in southwestern Mexico during the winter of 1902-03. They

¹ Descriptions of New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of American Birds. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, pp. 105-113, Sept. 30, 1903.

Diagnoses of Nine New Forms of American Birds. *Ibid.*, pp. 167-170, Nov. 30, 1903.

² Descriptions of New Birds from Southern Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XVI, pp. 151-160, Nov. 30, 1903.